

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

An Office Action was issued in the subject application on March 23, 2004, in which:

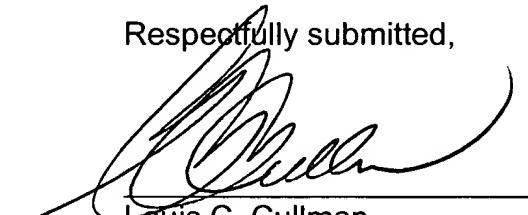
claims 16, 18, 21 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Summarizing this Amendment, claims 16, 18, 21 and 24 have been canceled to place this application in condition for allowance. On March 23, 2004 the application was withdrawn from allowance and an Information Disclosure Statement filed. As a result of the new prior art presented to the examiner in the IDS, certain previously allowed claims were rejected. During this process there was confusion between the Office and Applicant as to which claims remained pending and which claims had been previously canceled. To avoid confusion, and not in any manner related to patentability, and to facilitate allowance, we have hereby canceled claims 1-28. A continuing application will be filed to resume prosecution of previously canceled claims.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this Amendment to deposit account No. 01-2525.

Respectfully submitted,



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